

Amendments To The Specification

Please insert the following heading on page 1, between (i) the priority benefit paragraph and (ii) line 5:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention

Please insert the following heading on page 1, line 9:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading on page 2 before the first line:

BROAD DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading on page 2, line 7:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the previously amended paragraph on page 10, lines 27 and 28, with the following amended paragraph and heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1 to 11 show, for example, various aspects of the present invention. In the drawings:

Please insert the following new paragraphs and heading on page 11, line 22:

Figure 9 shows a front view of a packing unit of a laminate material according to Figure 4 of the present invention.

Figure 10 shows a view of one of the packing unit shown in Figure 9.

Figure 11 shows a view of the other side of the packing unit shown in Figure 10.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 2 to 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The task of the present invention is to propose a packing which offers optimum protection to the filling but nonetheless is easy to open, can be produced in a simple manner and ~~minimises~~ minimizes the use of machines while retaining maximum freedom with regard to packing design.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 2 to 7, with the following amended paragraph:

The film-like laminate material is multilayer, for example, two, three, four layer, etc. The individual material layers can be lacquer applications, metal films, ~~metallised~~ metalized coatings or films of plastics, in particular thermoplastics, or laminates of metal films and plastic films. One or more material layers can be extruded and in particular melt-extruded layers or films of thermoplastics, where applicable laminated with metal or plastic films. At least one material layer can be a lacquer application such as a clear lacquer, a ~~couleur~~ color lacquer, a hot melt coating, etc. At least one material layer can be a ~~metallised~~ metalized coating or a ceramic thin coating deposited from a vacuum. Between the individual coatings can be adhesives, extrusion adhesives, adhesion promotion agents and/or primers. To increase the mutual adhesion of the coatings, the

surfaces of the films, coatings or material layers can for example be subjected to corona, flame, ozone or plasma treatment.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, line 19, to page 5, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

Examples of multilayer laminates are laminates containing a first material layer and a second material layer. The first material layer can be a film such as a monofilm or laminate of thermoplastics such as polyesters, polyolefins such as polypropylenes or polyethylenes, polyamides, polyvinyl chloride, polycarbonate, etc., or cellulose- containing materials such as cellophane or papers. The film can be printed and/or counter-printed on the side of the finished packing facing the outside. The second material layer can for example be a metal foil or metal film with a sealing coating applied to the side of the finished packing facing the inside, or a sealable film. The second material layer can in another embodiment be a sealable film of thermoplastic or an extrusion layer of a thermoplastic which is preferably sealable. Where applicable, papers can be used, e.g., coated papers as a second material layer. Where applicable, as the second material layer, lacquer coatings or paint applications can be used. The lacquers can be clear, opaque or ~~colourless~~ colorless or ~~coloured~~ colored. Depending on the product to be packed, the laminate material can have barrier properties against the penetration of fluids, gases, ~~vapours~~ vapors, water ~~vapour~~ vapor, aromas or ~~flavourings~~ flavorings etc. To achieve barrier properties one can use metal foils, ~~metallised~~ metalized coatings, e.g., of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum, ceramic thin coatings, e.g., from silicon oxides and/or ~~aluminium~~ aluminum oxide applied by

sputtering or deposition under vacuum, or plastic films, e.g., materials from the range of styrene copolymers, ethyl vinyl alcohol polymers or polyvinylidene chloride. Examples of sealable materials for the films or extrudates are polyolefins such as polyethylene, polypropylene or co- and terpolymers of ethylene with acrylic acid. The sealability of the laminate can also be achieved by application of a sealing lacquer.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, line 9, to page 9, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention also concerns a process for application of the weakened zones to the laminate material. The laminate material is produced by provision of the first material layer, where applicable printing of the first material layer on one or both sides and simultaneous application of the weakened zones in the register. Suitable printing processes are for example book, offset, flexo, screen and rotogravure printing. The first material layer can be weakened in the area of the printing machine, before, between two ~~colour~~ color applications, or after the printing ink application. The weakened zones can be generated by the application of weaknesses or perforations. This can be achieved mechanically for example by blades such as oscillating blades, rotating blades fitted to a cylinder, punch blades or needles, etc. Other devices for application of the weakened zones are energy-rich radiation such as laser beams or electron beams. Such processes normally lead to micro perforations. The weaknesses are applied to the first material layer in the register, i.e., in synchrony with the printing. This allows precise alignment of the weakening at the same time as

precise alignment of the printing on the packing material. It is also possible to perform the weakening at the start or during the printing ink application or before any proposed lacquer or protective lacquer application. The weakening is then covered by the printing inks and/or lacquer or protective lacquer. Thus a barrier effect is achieved against the exchange of substances from moisture, gases, etc., for example, through the openings of a perforation or a cut. At the same time the weakened zones can be ~~stabilised~~ stabilized with regard to tear strength without making it difficult to achieve the desired tear-opening. Preferably, the printing and weakening processes are performed continuously on endless or rolled goods, the processing of films or leaves is however also possible.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 10 to 17, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5 shows the section through the structure of the film-like laminate material for the packing according to the invention, containing the first material layer of a film of thermoplastic 32 which carries a print 34 and a counter-print 35 and has a weakened zone 20. The second material layer of an ~~aluminium~~ aluminum foil 30, an adhesive coating 37 and a sealing coating 36 is connected to the first material layer by way of the adhesive coating or extrusion coating 31.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 19 to 26, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 6 shows a section through the structure of the film-like laminate material for the packing according to the invention, containing the first material layer of a film of thermoplastic 32 which carries a print 34 and a counter-print 35

and has a weakened zone 20. The second material layer of an ~~aluminium~~
aluminum foil 30, and extruded on this a sealing coating 36a, is connected to the
first material layer by the adhesive coating or extrusion coating 31.